

he also had worked successfully to get all of the race cars in the 500-mile race to use ethanol in 2008, a tremendous victory for the hard work of a young 30-year-old man.

I want to rise and give him a special salute because he was a friend of mine, a wonderful individual. And I was very pained to see how that car was traumatically destroyed in that race.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the Members of the House join me in extending condolences and support to his family and to pray for them, because I know this is a very traumatic experience for them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the life of Paul Dana. Paul was a man who saw life as goals, not obstacles. After graduating from Northwestern with a Journalism degree, he quickly determined that he would be happiest behind the wheel of a racecar and not in the stands writing about them. He actively pursued his goal and sought out possible sponsors who would provide him with the chance to achieve his dreams.

Paul Dana was passionate and dedicated to everything he committed himself to throughout his life. He worked on behalf of the cause of ethanol, an issue which we shared a deep interest in. He was dedicated to increasing the use of ethanol through his racing team sponsor. This new combination was the result of his hard work and successes on the track as well as his strong business and racing world skills.

He was proud to be racing on the same team with Danica Patrick and Buddy Rice. They created an amazing team along with team owners Bobby Rahal and David Letterman, and were all excited about the prospect of a great year. In the past Paul had finished 10th in his debut Indy car race at Miami-Homestead and had been looking forward to returning this season after suffering a broken back during a practice run at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Paul Dana was an integral part of the community and served in many local organizations along side his wife Tonya Bergeson-Dana, a Researcher and Professor at IUPUI's Riley Hospital for Children. The relationship they had and the way they reached out to others have left imprints on many lives far beyond just racing.

A devoted husband, racer and American, Paul Dana should always be remembered for enjoying the challenges that were between him and his goals, never failing to live life to the fullest and always sharing in the happiness that we should all enjoy everyday. He met his fate prematurely on the racetrack last Saturday afternoon in Florida but he died while doing what he loved. We should all be as blessed.

THE SENATE NEEDS TO ACT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, back in November, Homeland Security officials found and deported 85 illegal aliens from Mexico; 63 of the 85 had previously committed

such crimes as burglary, drug possession, sexual assault and murder.

In September, 99 illegal aliens were arrested in a sting operation in my home State of Florida. All of them had violent criminal backgrounds. Back in July, officials arrested 29 illegal aliens from South Korea who were operating a sex trafficking business.

If these violent criminals could break through our borders, how do we know that terrorist groups have not also?

I call on my colleagues in the Senate to pass the bill that we have passed, H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot leave our Nation's security to chance.

DEMOCRATS STAND FOR SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, quite to the contrary, Democrats today stood for real security. We stood for the transitioning of Iraq's security to the Iraqi Government, as has been promised by this administration.

We have stood for the equipping of our soldiers. We have stood for energy security. And today, of course, proudly we have stood for ensuring that our veterans were cared for. So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that America sees the direction that we want to take this country and join us.

Tomorrow, I will be unavoidably detained. I wanted to mention H.R. 609, the College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005. I had wished that we could have supported this legislation, but I think it is important for America's students to know that the average tuition and fees for 4-year public colleges has risen over 40 percent since 2001.

This bill does nothing to allow our students to afford college. I, however, will have an amendment as this bill goes to conference to increase the Pell Grant maximum to \$7,000 from \$6,000, and to provide support for our visually impaired students who need to have Braille textbooks to be able to survive.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will eventually be able to support legislation that will help our college students in the future.

WE USE TOO MUCH MIDDLE EAST OIL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, the U.S. public spent \$103 billion buying oil from nondemocratic countries such as Venezuela, Syria and Iran.

In fact, it is so bad that you could say that we are doubly funding the war on terrorism against us. We need to get off Middle East oil.

Congressman Eliot Engel and I have introduced H.R. 4409, which sets that

goal of getting us off Middle East oil by the year 2025. We do it through existing technology. We accelerate the use of hybrids by doubling the tax credit for purchasing a hybrid.

We give automobile manufacturers a tax credit for making more lightweight vehicles that are more fuel efficient. We give truckers a tax credit for buying alternative power units so at night they do not have to burn diesel fuel while they are sitting in truck stops.

We adopt the Gil Gutknecht E-Line 10 by 10 language on ethanol.

This is a very good bill. I invite all of my colleagues to take a look at H.R. 4409 and consider being a cosponsor for national security.

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GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to echo my friend Mr. KINGSTON's remarks and urge Members to take a look at his and Mr. ENGEL's bill for another reason besides national security, that is, it has the additional benefit of dealing with the climate change that the globe is now experiencing. This is kind of a two-fer, the bill that Mr. KINGSTON just described.

One, it can free us from our addiction to Middle Eastern oil or help in that direction; and, two, it can deal with a problem that you can read about in Time magazine. The cover story in Time magazine is about global warming. It says: be afraid, be very afraid.

I hate to think it is from fear. I like to think it is from hope. We ought to have the hope that we can free ourselves from our addiction to Middle Eastern oil, and we can stop global warming if we do some of the common-sense things that Mr. KINGSTON and Mr. ENGEL have proposed.

For those who have been paying attention to the science in the last month, we have learned that the Greenland glaciers are accelerating at a factor of two. The Arctic has lost 36 cubic miles of ice. Polar bears are drowning due to a lack of ice. It is time for some action. Take a look at this bill.

PLANO WEST GIRLS BASKETBALL WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Plano West Senior High School girls basketball team for being the first Plano ladies team to capture a State basketball championship. They are the Lady Wolves.

Earlier this month, the Lady Wolves of Plano West routed the Rockwall Yellowjackets. The girls in blue and

black were trailing at half time 18-13. That all changed when they rallied in the second half to capture the lead and win. Not just win, but win big, 54-47. They are the girls basketball champions of Texas.

Congratulations, Lady Wolves. Your parents are proud of you. Plano is proud of you. America is proud of you, and I salute every one of you.

God bless each one of you and God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, the following are the names of the players and I would like to congratulate them one and all:

Becca Feagin, junior; Mary Rich, junior; Rachel Hester, senior; Alexis Morgan, senior; Lindsay Hughes, senior; Katie Makanani, sophomore; Taylor Shead, junior; Tawni Ichimura, senior; Kristen Nash, senior; Kathleen Nash, junior; and Micah Garoutte, junior.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA IS A NATION OF LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, it is often said that America is a nation of immigrants, but there is also another important point, not to be ignored. America is a nation of laws. We are increasing border security, and security is very important in this day and age, in this tough world that we live in. We are increasing border security by constructing fences, bolstering our border patrols and escalating our surveillance capabilities.

It is of first and most importance to our Nation that we step up and halt this mass influx of foreign trespassers known as illegal immigrants. To grant amnesty to these trespassers is to say: You crossed our border illegally, you broke our laws, and now we are rewarding you with U.S. citizenship. Congratulations.

That is absolutely the wrong way to go. A guest worker program is nothing more than amnesty wearing make-up. It is easier to look at, but it is still ugly underneath.

For legal immigrants, we must replace our outdated bureaucratic procedures with updated technology. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services currently processes 7 million immigration applications in our country every year. They do it using Windows 95 and paper printouts. This system is obviously and absolutely flawed. We need to fix the process for immigrants to come here legally.

That is why I introduced the Comprehensive Immigration DATA Act,

H.R. 4412, to modernize the immigration application process by creating a Federal, computerized database that more efficiently and effectively tracks immigrants applying for visas or for U.S. citizenship.

It is time that we step up in terms of our governmental policy, to make sure our government bureaucrats here in Washington are being responsive to our Nation's needs and to be accountable. The best way we can do that is by giving them the technology to do their jobs, and that is what I am trying to achieve with this bill. It is good in terms of policy for legal immigrants. It is the right thing to protect our borders, and it is good for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, it is progress that we need to make as a country.

FIREARMS CORRECTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5005, the Firearms Corrections and Improvement Act. But I don't want to let the name of this legislation fool you. This bill only serves to improve the chances of somebody getting away with a gun crime.

This bill proposes changes that will undermine Federal law and endanger public safety. These are not mere technical corrections, but a blatant attempt to restrict use of the ATF's National Trace Center's database. Previously, the NRA's friends in Congress have inserted language into appropriation bills to restrict access to some important ballistic information.

H.R. 5005 will make restriction access the law. The ATF's gun tracing program helps local police solve gun crimes by analyzing the unique marks made on bullets and cartridges and cases when guns are fired. The images of these markings can be compared with other images in more than 200 Federal, State and local law enforcement laboratories.

But H.R. 5005 would make it a crime for police departments to share information from the database of other departments. Say a police department in my district on Long Island obtains ballistic information from the ATF and a similar shooting occurs in New York City, the Long Island department wouldn't be able to share that information.

In fact, the officer who did share this information could be arrested. That is absolutely insane. Instead of cracking down on criminals using guns, this bill treats police officers like criminals.

Since 9/11, responders in New York and throughout the Nation have gone to great lengths to increase interoperability and information sharing, and now H.R. 5005 comes along and makes information sharing between police de-

partments a crime. Again, some Members of this body put their allegiance to the NRA above common sense.

The tracing program provides law enforcement agencies with valuable information about gun trafficking that can prevent crimes from happening. Tracing helps the public identify gun dealers and traffickers who are supplying illegal guns in our communities, but this legislation would prevent the use of trace data as evidence in any State or Federal court or any non-ATF administrative proceedings.

This bill cuts local law enforcement out of the loop. Without this tracing data local law enforcement officers will not be able to pursue civil action on suppliers that have been implicated in crimes without the ATF's involvement. We all know the ATF doesn't get the resources to get involved in every civil issue regarding gun crimes, but H.R. 5005 does not stop at limiting access to tracing the database. The legislation also makes it more difficult for local police to receive reports of multiple gun purchases. Law enforcement can use these reports to discover whether straw purchasers or gun traffickers are replenishing their inventory. But if this bill becomes law, police will no longer be able to access this information.

The bill also prevents the ATF from maintaining a database of firearm purchase information. This provision would hurt investigations by local law enforcement to determine the point of sale origin of firearms that can help locate an assailant.

As New York City Mayor Bloomberg pointed out in his testimony yesterday, if police can crack down on taverns that serve under-aged drinkers, why can't they go after gun dealers who knowingly sell to criminals?

And since 1 percent of the gun dealers sell 57 percent of the guns used in crimes, this information is vital for police to conduct investigations and root out dishonest gun dealers. This bill is the latest in a long line of misguided legislation that puts protecting the gun industry before keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. No other industry in the country has this kind of protection.

The gun industry already has immunity from litigation resulting from its negligence over incompetence. The industry can now sell military assault weapons to the general public. But now this legislation would protect the 1 percent of dishonest gun dealers who are fueling gun violence throughout this country with their irresponsible business practices. This legislation does nothing to protect the second amendment rights. Nothing in this legislation makes it any easier to hunt or defend themselves using a firearm.

Simply put, H.R. 5005 does more to promote gun crimes than gun rights.

I hope yesterday's hearings showed the public what a bad bill H.R. 5005 really is. I would like to thank Mayor Bloomberg for his opposition to this